

EFFICIENCY

Innovation leads to
operational excellence

How a grid owner significantly improved its operational efficiency

Transpower NZ Ltd. Wellington, New Zealand

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With the successful deployment of PowerLogic ION8800 rack mount meters, Transpower has created an innovative operational model that improves field maintenance, reduces maintenance costs, and provides clear visibility into the entire power system.

Introduction

Transpower is the owner of the national grid in New Zealand, as well as the system operator responsible for managing the real-time power system and running the wholesale electricity market. As an operator that still uses traditional dial-up, Transpower faced the challenge of reliably collecting data on a daily basis without full visibility of what was happening at the meter.

Local requirements specified recertifying and recalibrating meters every three years. This was manual work: it involved going out into the field, taking test equipment onsite, and typically included installing a temporary meter to maintain revenue measurement and recording during calibration for 400+ meter points. This meant personnel would be away from the main office for days at a time.

Goal

Obtain easier recertification, greater visibility, and control of metering in the field.

Solution

PowerLogic ION8800 rack mount revenue meter, for 24/7 monitoring and control of electrical appliances:

- Alarms and notifications when parameters fall out of the preset range
- Remote control and data access

Story

Transpower, the owner of the NZ electrical grid, needed to manually recertify its meters in the field, a manual operation that took personnel away from the main office for extended periods. It also meant unreliable daily data collection, difficult and time-consuming calibration processes, and overly complicated methods of maintaining revenue data collection during calibration.

Results

- A single, standardized design for all installations
- Improved field maintenance: testing and meter swaps
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Less time spent onsite by field staff
- Clear visibility into the power system



Solved with a simple, reliable solution

In 2010, Transpower underwent a technology upgrade; they were looking for a plug-in meter that could offer the form and functionality they needed, and they found the **PowerLogic ION8800**. Attracted by the rack mount option, the ION8800 fit well with the way their installations and cabinets are set up. To help avoid de-commissioning all 400+ installations in 180 cabinets, the ION8800 enabled both streamlined testing and in-service swapping. Working with a 19-inch rack allows wiring in such a way that one meter can remain in service at all times. According to Metering Services Manager Ian Martin, “We wanted to reduce maintenance costs, and this has been achieved by improving the reliability and ease with which the installations are maintained.”

With the ION8800, Transpower also reduced their 20 individual meter template designs under the old configuration to now using only one or two templates. Built into these new meter templates is the ability to aggregate what would have needed to be hardwired under the previous design. By monitoring power quality conditions beyond traditional revenue data, Transpower also gained greater visibility into their entire power system. “The meters will now self-report and alert us if there’s something we might be concerned about. If what’s normal for that site suddenly changes, the meter will tell us.”

Expert support

Schneider Electric’s extensive metering experience and expertise continues to benefit Transpower in many ways — from providing professional training and technical support to ever-evolving and easily integrated product innovation.

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– Ian Martin, Metering Services Manager

“We appreciate Schneider’s expertise and support, and how easily the products worked alongside our existing solutions.”

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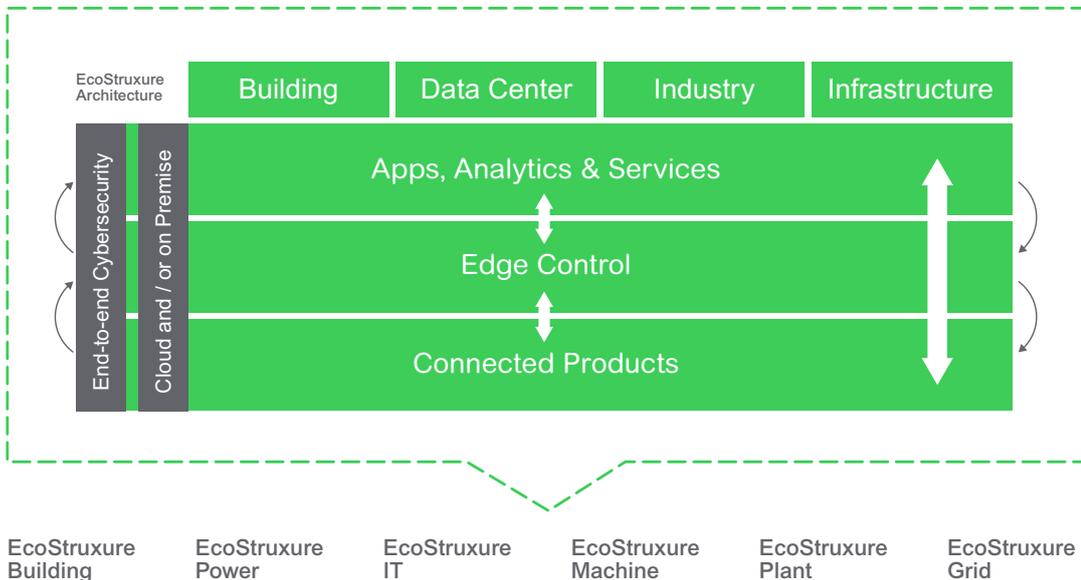
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July 2017

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